Arbor Day has been annually observed with increasing interest. In its observance, however, but little attention is paid to the actual planting of trees. If the neople of any given community in the Commonwealth were to unite and arrange in advance for the observance of the day, by planting trees along the highways—if necessary, securing the consent of Individuals to plant them within the fence linemuch might be done to add beauty and attractiveness and give comfort to the traveler and practical benefits to the community. EXEMPTION OF THE HOMESTEAD.

That Commonwealth best cares for itself which most fully protects and provides for the welfare of its individual citizen.

It is the part of wisdom to secure for every It is the part of wisdom to secure for every family a home of its own, and to insure the interest of the members of the family in the practice of individual economy and care in the expenditure of public funds. To this end, every encouragement possible should be extended by law to every member of the family to render all the assistance possible in securing a homestead. It requires neither argument nor illustration to prove that the man who owns his own home becomes, thereby, a better citizen. He should be stimulated in every proper way to acquire such a home. His wife and his children should be encouraged to assist. What encouragement under our present system, is there when after the family have striven together to secure a home of their own.

ugh your aid

PENAL AND REFORMATORY SCHOOLS. The subject of penology is a branch of social nals, so as to reform those capable of reformation as soon as possible and return them to society as producers, is a problem which has long demanded wise solution. It is believed that Pennsylvania is in a situation to render valuable practical assistance in solving this

question.
The Legislature at its last meeting passed a The Legislature at its last meeting passed a bill in relation to the imprisonment government and release of convicts in the Pennsylvania Industrial Reformatory at Huntingdon, which was approved the 28th day of April, 1887. In conformity with the provisions of that law, and upon the presentation of a certificate by the Commissioners charged with the duty of nasmuch, however, as no appropriation was nade by the last Legislature for the expenses connected with the care and maintenance of to the reformatory, but because there should be a transfer from the Eastern Penitentiary, which is crowded with inmates, of such as are entitled to the benefits of the new institution.

THE WESTERN PENITENTIARY. Work upon the Western Penitentiary has own maintenance while in prison. It may be that some legislation upon this subject will be necessary. It so, it is to be borne in mind that the reformation of the criminal is the first con-sideration, and that no question of profit aris-ing from his labor should be allowed to influence us in the disposition of the subject.

The Eastern Penitentiary continues what is known as the solitary confinement plan, so far as its crowded condition will permit. It may well be doubted whether this system, which well be doubted whether this system, which has long prevailed in Pennsylvania and elsewhere, is the best for the reformation of criminals. What can be more unhealthy, morally, than the thoughts of a man, morally unhealthy, turned in upon himself. It is not intended, at this time, to recommend any radical change in the management of the institution, and yet it is not by any management that grant in the case in the state of the control of

CARE OF THE IDIOTIC AND INSANE. Pennsylvania has made large and liberal probest institutions in the country, adapted to this purpose, are found within her borders. Four exclusively State institutions, and one which has been built and maintained largely by State aid, afford accommodations for probably 4,000 of this unfortunate class of our fellow citizens. All of these institutions, it is claimed, are filled

aid, afford accommodations for processly along of this unfortunate class of our fellow citizens. All of these institutions, it is claimed, are filled with inmates who are properly maintained at public expense in a hospital for the insane.

The policy of recent legislation, as enforced by the authorities carrying it into effect, has been to compel the County Commissioners of the several counties, which provided accommodations for their own insane, to send them from the county homes to State hospitals. The effect of this policy has been to empty our county homes—in many cases well provided for caring for a certain class of the demented and idiotic—of their inmates, and forcing them into our hospitals for the insane, where the expense of their care and maintenance is largely increased without any compensating advantage. It is believed that fully 25 per cent of the inmates of our present hospital—for the insane, who receive no medical treatment whatever, and but little of supervision, could be cared for with as much, or more, of comfort to themselves—and certainly to the comfort of other inmates—at not more than one-half of the present expense, if they were transferred to well regulated and reasonable equipped county homes. Many of our county institutions have such provision, and their authorities have been much annoyed by the apparent legal necessity of transferring them to our hospitals for the insane.

This subject is receiving, as it should, serious consideration by our Board of Charities and the trustees of some of our hospitals. The additional expense thus incurred is not the only disadvantage resulting from such a policy. The filling of our hospitals with such cases, crowds them to such an extent, that it is difficult to provide for the care and proper treatment of recent acute cases, which should always receive immediate attention. This policy also prevents, or tends to prevent, the reception of private patients in need of medical attendants and hospital care and treatment, whose friends would be glad to pa

are unwilling to have their friends pauperized.

This subject is one of very great practical importance. If some curative remedy is not applied, there will be immediate necessity for the erection of additional accommodations for our insane, involving the expenditure of a large amount of money. If cases, of the class referred to, were returned to the several counties to which they belong, which aiready have provision for their maintenance, and the Beard of Charities (if not already advised to do so) were empowered to insist upon proper provision for them in such counties as have not already made it, it is believed that no necessity for the erection of new hospitals would arise for several years to come.

eral years to come.

This would undoubtedly be true, if the present plans for enlarging and rebuilding the hospital for the insane at Harrisburg were carried out. These plans seem to be judicious, and the necessity for their being immediately car-ried into effect, in the opinion of the trustees, apparent. The present main hospital building never well planned or properly constructed—
is very old and ill--unted to present needs and
modern requirements. The chapel is entirely
inadequate to the wants of the institution.
No separate room for amusements is provided
for the inmates. The kitchens and storerooms are neither well planned nor properly located, and the general appointments of the hospital are not, in any way, equal to our other State institutions. Whatever appropriations may be properly made for the increase of accommodations for the care and custody of the insane,

should undoubtedly be made for this institution. Whether or not you will be able to meet the wishes of the trustees in regard to future improvements, will depend very largely upon the legislation of the present session affecting the revenue. Unless the effect of such legisscience which is receiving marked attention at the present time. How to deal with convicted creased revenues, it is safe to say that any appropriation for this object would be inappropriation for this object would be inappro-SOLDIERS AND SAILORS' HOME, It is believed that, when the improvements

The last Legislature made generous provision for the increase of accommodations for the care and comfort of the aged and infirm veterans of the late war, at the home in Erie. now in progress are completed, all the demands which are likely to be made upon this institution for several years to come, will be easily met. You will be asked to make appropriation for the care of several hundred of our old veterans. The expenditure of money for this purpose is more seeming than real inasmuch as, by virtue of the provisions of a late act of Congress, \$100 a year for each innate maintained in this State Home, will be returned by the United States Government to our State Treasury. The amount thus appropriated by the General Government will not fully maintain an inmate of our home, but it will supply more than the one-half part of the costs thereof, and will thus practically reduce our expenditures in that direction to that extent.

The home is in excellent condition, under good and careful management, and is proving in practice all that it was designed to be by its promoters and founders. The Commonwealth has done a good work in establishing it and has done a good work in establishing it, and

will do well to maintain it.

No provision has ever been made by the Commonwealth for recognizing the services of the individual citizen who volunteered to serve the country in her behalf during the War of

"Some States have recognized such services by a medal; others by an engraved certificate. The subject has been brought to the attention of the Executive, with the request that his views (Continued on Eighth Page,)

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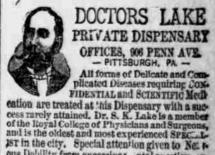
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GOV. BEAVER'S MESSAGE

Topics of Vital Interest to the Commonwealth Discussed.

AN EXHAUSTIVE STATE PAPER. Revenue and Tax Suggestions for the

Guidance of Legislators. VIEWS ON MANUAL TRAINING SCHOOLS

PEFECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. HARRISBURG, January 1 .- When the Legislature convened to-day the following

cate a population approximating, if not quite

equal to, 5,000,000. Pienty crowns the year which has just closed. Agriculture has been rewarded by generous returns from the soil, in greater degree than in several years past. The output of our mines has steadily increased. We easily hold our place in the front rank of the producers of coal and iron. The busy hum of industry has indiby the Speaker of the House, the Auditor General years past, the children are discounted by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, the Auditor General years past, the children are discounted by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the President protein of the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the Senate, seven Representatives appointed by the Senate protein of the Senate and from. The busy hum of industry has indicated the content of employment, even if manufacturers have been denied a fairly profitable return. Internal and inter-State commerce show increased and increasing tonnage, and give employment to constantly increasing numbers. The growth of our railroad system, although checked in some directions, has been although checked in some directions and has a commission to revise the revenue laws of the Commission to revise the revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and, if practicable, to report a digest of all the State revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and, if practicable, to report a digest of all the State revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and, if practicable, to report a digest of all the State revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and, if practicable, to report a digest of all the State revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and, if practicable, to report a digest of all the State revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and if the State revenue laws of the Commission to revise the revenue laws of their action by bill or otherwise to the next of special session of the Legislature, and the State Treasurer, the President product of the State Treasurer, the President product of the State Treasurer, the President product of the State Treas although checked in some directions, has been State revenu beatthy and vigorous cisewhere, and has This Commiss tended to the development of our vast resources here of are untouched. New territory for the production of oil and natural was has been discovered and opened up. The utilization of natural cas and of the vast accumulations of culm in the anthracite coal regions, and the development of new bituminous coal fields in several parts of the State, have proved of great advantage to our manufacturing industries in all portions of the Commonwealth and offer superior attractions to those desiring to locate new manufacturing industries, especially such as relate to the manufacture of iron and the

COMMENDABLE ENTERPRISE. The vicorous growth and healthy develop-

creased attention to the paying of streets and introduction of electric motor and horse rallways, are evidences of general thrift and commendable enterprise.
Industrial thrift has been but slightly retarded by strikes and lockouts, destructive alike to all the interests affected thereby, and an increasing disposition between the wageearner and the wage payer to consult before differences arise, and to arbitrate after they have arisen, gives promise of more satisfactory results in this direction in the future. It is hoped that the era of depression in prices, which has prevailed for several years. as reached low-water mark, and it is confitly believed that the outlook for more pro ing results for industrial and cor

rprise is encouraging. You come, therefore, to the decharge of your duties as the promotors and conservators of the public welfare at a goodly time.

It is not intended by this brief survey to convey the impression that there are no evils to remedy and no benefits to be conferred upon the people of the Commonwealth by their chosen representatives in General Assembly the Constitution, your own good judgment, the best interests of the whole people and the m sources of the Commonwealth will allow. It is not the intention, nor is it the desire, of the Executive to interfere in any case. command that, "He shall from time to time sideration at your hands.

Your immediate predecessors, by two several joint resolutions, took the first step in submitting to a vote of the people amendments to the Constitution of the Commonwealth; the property above enumerate shall be void." first of said resolutions, approved the 10th day of February, 1887, proposing to prohibit by constitutional enactment the manufacture, sale, or keeping for sale, of any intexicating quor to be used as a beverage; and the second providing for the amendment of the first secthe minimum residence in the district where the elector offers to vote from 2 months to 30 of

In regard to the first of these resolutions, it may be confidently said that very many people of the Commonwealth desire to vote directly upon it. They should have opportunity so to do; and in order that such an opportunity may be afforded, at a time when no other consideration than the direct question involved can bias the mind, it is recommended that the resolution be passed by the present Legislature as early as possible, and that a time be fixed for a special election—say in the month of May or June—at which the people may record their verdict

said resolutions seems to meet with general ap-proval, and might be submitted at the same time. Neither of these subjects has any partisan political significance, and they should therefore be considered and determined solely upon their ments. This, it is believed, can be best done when no other subject is before the people, and in advance of the nominating conventions which shall name candidates to be voted for at the general election in November.

APPROPRIATIONS AND REVENUE. At the close of the Legislature in 1887 there remained at the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth for Executive action nearly 300 bills and resolutions. These included the major part of the appropriation bills of the ssion. A careful aggregation of all the appropriations made, together with the fixed charges and expenses provided by law, the departmental expenses arising under the schedules and the estimated amount of the sinking fund as fixed by the Constitution and laws, amounted to nearly \$17,000,000. The estimated revenues from all sources, ac-

ing to the experience and judgment of e best qualified to make an estimate, were ess than \$15,000,000.

This condition of things imposed upon the Executive the necessity of bringing the income and outgo of the treasury for the two years, from the 1st of June, 1887, to the 1st of June, 1887, to the 1st of June, 1888, as nearly as possible together. The revenues could not be increased. The remedy, and the only remedy, therefore, was to be learned from the p found in decreasing the expenditures, or rather preventing the necessity of expenditure, by Executive interference. This was found to be a difficult thing to do. The great majority of the appropriations were well considered and necessary, and appealed to the judgment and in many cases, to the sympathy of the Executive. The appropriations were all carefully tabulated and analyzed, and, after thoroughly studying them, it was determined, first of all that two objects in which the executive had taken a deep personal interest must be sacrafteed. Teese were the erection of a new executive building, and the remodeling of the legislative building (for which appropriation had been made by the Legislature) and the asion for new and enlarged quarters for be House of Refuge in Philadelphia. item providing for the repair of the executive mansion would have shared the same rate but for the fact that the plans had all been prepured and the work actually commenced be ore the necessity for such action became

Many of the appropriations simply expressed the legal obligations of the Commonwealth. These could not be interfered with. Our

bill No. 220, which came to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth a few days before the adjournment of the last Legislature, received very careful consideration at the hands of the Executive. In some of its provisions it was not believed to be all that was desired; in others it was regarded as positively faulty, and in some respects its tendency was to diminish the revenues. There was popular demand for some new revenue system. It was believed by the people at large that this bill met the requirements of the demand. With many misgivings, but recognizing the feeling upon the subject, the Executive was about to sign the bill, when it was discovered that it had not received the signature of the presiding officer of the Senate, as required by the Constitution. A quiet investigation was set on foot before any publicity was given to the matter, which resulted in the discovery that the journal of the Senate failed to show that the bill had ever been received from the House in the Senate for signature. A further investigation showed that at the time the House of Representatives adjourned, after the signing of the bill by the Speaker, the Senate was not in session. It was believed, therefore, that the messenger had taken the bill from the House to the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth without having first carried it to the Senate. Be that bill No. 200, which came to the office of the Sec Legislature convened to-day the following message from Governor Beaver was read. It is given in full below:

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania:

GENTLEMEN—You come together under favorable auspices. The Commonwealth propers. Her population increases. Her vote at the last general election aggregated within 1,700 of 1,000,000, being about 100,000 in excess of the vote at any time previously cast. This vote, measured by the standard of 1880, would indicate a population approximating, if not quite previously a 200,000.

REVENUE COMMISSION. In accordance with the provisions of the con current resolution, approved the 16th day of February. 1887, Hon. Henry W. Palmer, Hon. Jerome B. Niles and Hon, Christopher Hey-drick were appointed by the President pro tem

State revenue laws for public information." This Commission held repeated meetings during the year 1857, and made a report which, with the bill prepared by them entitled "An act to revise, amend and consolidate the several revenue laws of this Commonwealth; which imposes taxes upon personal property and upon coperations, companies, associations, limited partnerships, banks, bankers and brokers," is herewith transmitted. There are some admirable features in the bill as proposed, and if it could be put into immediate operation, with such amendments as a later experience would indicate to be desirable, it would doubtless constitute the foundation of a

operation, with such amendments as a later experience would indicate to be desirable, it would doubtless constitute the foundation of a wise and comprehensive revenue system.

Without discussing either of the measures above referred to, it may be stated as a safe general proposition, that the less interference with our existing revenue laws, excepting to remedy certain defects pointed out by the courts in recent decisions, and to extend the operation of the law so as to bring within its grasp all personal property intended to be taxed under existing legislation and the requirements of the constitution, the better it will be for the revenues of the Commonwealth and other interests which seriously complain of burdens too great to be borne.

The general revenue act of the 7th of June, 1878, with the supplements thereto, having already received judicial interpretation in various ways, may perhaps better be adhered to than to risk the enactment of an entirely new law whose fundamental principles might not receive the sanction of judicial interpretation. If what is known as the capital stock tax were levied upon the actual value of the stock taxed, instead of under the duel arrangement provided in the second section of the above act referred to, and if what is known as the loans tax were levied upon the actual value of the secontrices sought to be taxed, many of the difficulties complained of and which are now undergoing judicial examination might, it is believed be happily reof and which are now undergoing judicial ex-amination might, it is believed be happily re-moved and our revenues rendered much more stable, with a chance for increase rather than

A TAX SUGGESTION met. On the contrary, the favorable condition of affairs which confronts you will enable you to give intelligent and serious attention to many subjects of internal policy and concern which have long demanded appropriate legislation. You are solely responsible for the laws which are enacted. You come fresh from which are enacted. You come fresh from your several constituencies with a knowledge of their wants and desires. You are to meet those wants and gratify those desires, so far as expenses connected therewith, much difficulty would be obviated, more revenue would be received by the Commonwealth, and an inducesources of the Commonwealth will allow. It is not the intention, nor is it the desire, of the Executive to interfere in any way with your functions as hawmakers. It is his intention to confine himself strictly to the constitutional

command that, "rie shall from time to time give to the General Assembly information of the state of the Commonwealth, and recommend to their consideration such measures as he may judge expedient."

Sideration at your hands. The Legislature has, at different times and in various ways, attempted to exempt certain classes of property from the general operation of our revenue laws. The Constitution expressly limits the power of the Legislature in this direction; specifically enumerates the property which it may, by general laws, exempt from taxation, and provides in the second section of the ninth article that "all laws exempting property from taxation, other than the What is property? A plain, simple, common-sense answer to this question will undoubtedly point out the highway which the Legislature must follow in dealing with the whole subject of revenue, if the plain intent

direction indicated, with no more than the present moderate rate of taxation provided for in existing laws, and it is believed that immediate relief would be experienced by those who rightfully complain of burdensome local taxation. A general inquiry addressed to all the cities and counties of the Commonwealth has elicited the knowledge of a condition of affairs, so far as local taxation is concerned, which will be as great a surprise, no doubt, to the Legislature as it was to the Executive. The real estate of the Commonwealth is taxed in the various cities and counties thereof at rates varying from 60 mills, which is probably the highest, to 12 mills, which is probably the highest to 12 mills, which is probably the gether, and imposing upon personal property, which yields greater returns than real estate.

PRESENT CONDITION OF THE REVENUE. You will learn from the report of the Attorney General, as you have doubtless heretofore learned from the public prints, that the Supreme Court of the United States, in several well-considered opinions—two of them in cases removed from our own courts—has decided that what is known as the gross receipts tax, so far at least as it relates to commerce carried through this State, from another State into this State, or from this State into another State, is not subject to taxation, being an in-terference with commerce between the States, and therefore in violation of the Constitution, This decision has very seriously crippled our revenues during the last two years, the loss for the present year amounting to amout \$800,-000. This loss threatened serious disturbance to the treasury and its ability to meet ordinary obligations. Thanks to the efficient and energetic administration of the Anditor Gen-eral's office and the active co-operation of the Attorney General's office, and through the forbearance of the officers intrusted with the "thority to draw warrants upon the Treasurer, no proper demand backed by a legal warrant has been ignored or postponed by the Treasurer. In doing this, however, it must be remarked that all our reserves have been exhausted. Unsettled cases

books of the Treasurer, and regularly printed in his annual report. Many of these items are believed to have no actual existence. The relief notes have probably been destroyed by fire and acci ent. Other items, such as interest certificates unclaimed, are actually in the vaults of the treasury, and have never been delivered. It would be well, in order to simplify the bookkeeping of the office and the state-ments which are annually promulgated, if authority were given to the Treasurer to cancel these items, without, in any way, impairing the these teems, without, in any way, impairing the obligation of the Commonwealth to pay them in case they should be presented; but, inasmuch as no payments have been made upon them since 1876, it is fair to presume that the Commonwealth will never be called upon to pay anything on their account. If these items were canceled the debt statement would, undoubtedly, more correctly represent the actual facts. It will be observed that no portion of the public debt is presently payable, except by and with the consent of the holders thereof. The balance of the 5 per cent loan, authorized by act of 20th of March, 1877, amounting to \$4,490,500, can be paid in accordance with the terms thereof in the year 1892. The cash balance in the sinking fund and the bonds of the United States held therein, which can be sold at any time, are more than sufficient to pay this balance now. The commissioners of the sinking fund have endeavored to purchase these bonds by paying a reasonable premium therefor, but many are held by trustees and conservative individuals to whom the premium is no inducement to sell, and their efforts in this direction seem to have accomplished all that is at present attainable.

to whom the premium is no inducement to sell, and their efforts in this direction seem to have accomplished all that is at present attainable. It is difficult upon any known business principles, to account for the fact of the refusal of the holders of these bonds to accept the full face value thereof with 8 or 10 per cent premium, in view of the certainty of their payment some three years hence, but such is the fact, and its existence is at least gratifying as showing the estimation in which the obligations of the Commonwealth are held by investors. For the details of the operations of the sinking fund, showing bonds purchased and premiums paid therefor, you are respectfully referred to the report of the Commissioners.

It may be well, before passing to another subject, to record the fact of the passage by both Houses of Congress, by decided majorities, of what is known as the "Direct Tax Bill." The effect of this bill, if it should become a law, will be to return to Pennsylvania nearly a million and three-quarters of dollars, which amount was retained by the Government of the United States out of a claim adjudicated by her own accounting officers for expenditures made by the State in raising and equipping troops for service of the United States. It constituted the quota of Pennsylvania of a direct tax levied upon all the States by act of Congress. Some of the States never having paid their quota of said tax, the return without interest, to such as did their duty, of the amount paid by them respectively, would seem to be so obviously just and proper that it is difficult to understand why it was not done long ago. The Senators and Representaives in Congress from Pennsylvania are entitled to the co-mendation of their constituents for their zeal in serving the interests of the Commonwealth in this behalf.

THE QUESTION OF EDUCATION.

No subject which relates to the future welfare of the Commonwealth, can more profitably engage the attention of the Legislature than that which concerns the care and culture of the young of the present and succeeding generations. We stand to-day apparently at the parting of two ways, so far as the general subject of education is concerned. Pennsylvania, so far as her school system is concerned. occupies a place which makes it easy for her to take the lead in the direction of practical education. The Legislature at its last session authorized and requested the Governor, by a concurrent resolution approved the 19th day of May, 1887, to appoint "a commission, consisting of not more than five persons, citizens of this Commonwealth, to make inquiry and report to the Legislature at its next session, by bill or otherwise, respecting the subject of industrial education, including an examination of the extent to which it is already carried on in Pennsylvania and elsewhere; the best means of promoting it in its several grades, whether by State or local action alone, or by both combined; how far it is possible or desirable to incorporate it into the existing system of public instruction; the best methods of training teacher for such schools or departments, and what changes if any are required in the existing system of pormal schools to enable them to protem of normal schools to enable them to pro-vide such training, or to meet more fully the needs of the system of public instruction as now organized in the State, with such other in-quiries as the commission may itself institute or be requested by the Governor to under-

W. Bean were appointed to serve upon said commission, which has been since popularly known as the Industrial Education Commission. Their work, it is believed, has been thoroughly and conscientiously done. By observations in several parts of Europe and throughout this country they have brought together a mass of material, which, when pre-sented to the Legislature will, it is believed, constitute the best body of practical informa-tion upon this subject which has yet been col-lected. Their report has not yet been handed to the Executive. He has been, however, sufficiently apprised of the work of the commission and has kept pace with it to such an extent as to be able to form a general impression as to the work done and the outline recommended and proposed, and to state his hearty accord with the work of the commission, and to recommend that work to the careful con-sideration and liberal support of the Legisla-

ture. whole subject of revenue, if the plain intent of the Constitution is to be obeyed. The exemptions heretofore attempted have been made not only without authority, but are, the Constitution says, absolutely void. If, in addition to the simple changes in the act of 1879 above referred to, provision were made for the collection of taxes from those several species of property declared to be exempt by the Legislature, and such as are in effect exempt because not mentioned in existing legislation, we would have ample revenue for all the ordinary purposes of the Commonwealth, and could extend yet further in different directions the appropriations which tend to the immediate relief of the commonwealth, and could extend yet further in different directions the appropriations which tend to the immediate relief of the commonwealth, so that they can be applied to the practical demands of life when their school days are over. The alphabet of the straight line, the angle and the curve, is just as essential to a training for usefulness as the ordinary alphabet through which we express our thoughts in words. The education INDUSTRIAL MANUAL TRAINING direction indicated, with no more than the present moderate rate of taxation provided for of the hand, so that it can be applied dexterthing like a general introduction of manual which yields greater returns than real estate, only from one-half to one-tenth of the burden of taxation borne by the latter. Is it not, therefore, true that our farming population and the owners of modest homesteads have a right to complain? Is it not also true that, in our efforts to prevent money from seeking investment outside of the Commonwealth, we are driving men from home? Men are more essential to the life of the Commonwealth than money. They can make money, but money can never make men. training in the schools in the near future, we must first teach the teachers. To do this, our normal schools must be prepared in equipment and instructing force for the demands

> THE NORMAL SCHOOLS. buildings temporarily rented for the purpose, and that the school buildings will be rebuilt at an early day. It is probable that State aid will be sought in accomplishing this object, and within proper limits such aid should probably be extended.
>
> It is too late at this day to discuss the pro-

schools as fast as they are ready to carry the system into practical effect. It is a great mis-take to suppose that this will require large buildings and expensive outfits. All that is de-sirable in this direction cannot be accomplished

in a single year, and it is therefore recom-mended that reasonable appropriations for this specific purpose be made to each and all of our normal schools if it should be deemed wise to begin such training at once.

There exist, under the law regulating their organization, 13 Normal School districts Eleven such schools have been heretofore recognized in accordance with the provisions of the act of Assembly. The twelfth, lately erected at Centerville, in the Eleventh district is now awaiting recognition, leaving only the Fourth district without a school of its own. The buildings belonging to the Central State
Norman Schools, situate at Lock Haven, in the
Eighth district, have lately been destroyed by
fire. It is understood that they were partially
insured, that the school is being conducted in

It is not necessary to commend to your consideration the general interests of agriculture, which are recognized as being at the foundation of our prosperity and essential to our wel-

These could not be interfered with.

The coulding so discuss the provision for the several revenue laws of this Commonwealth, its believed that the subject should received and fitted of the duting oldigations. In no single instance, so far as the subject should receive in the cases of the amount required by a being a proposed with the subject should receive have should be strengthened and fitted for one buildings and the payment of preexisting obligations. In no single instance, so far as the subject should receive in the reason of instruction, involving a month of the duties of instruction, involving and nation, and of the duties of instruction, involving and nation, and of the duties of the commonwealth.

The revenue laws of the commonwealth is instituted and fitted for determining obligations. In no single instance, so far as the east of the commonwealth is subject should receive in the treasury at the ead of any other than the hands of or the part of the children great importance of instruction, involving a month on the part of the children great importance of instruction, involving a month on the part of the children great importance of instruction, involving a month on the part of the commonwealth.

The revenue and the payment of prevention for the ended of the payment of prevention for the ended of the payment of the commonwealth.

The provision for the encouragement of experiment of the conditions of the commonwealth is believed that the basis of the threat of the commonwealth. It is believed that the basis of the time the basis of the time the payment of the payment of the commonwealth is subject obtain

of the act approved July 2 1882, and of the acts supplementary thereto.

The experiment station thus provided for has been fully manned and equipped, and the appropriation made by the Legislature in part expended in providing buildings and other appliances for its successful work.

The results of this station are published from time to time in builetins, which are sent to all persons interested therein upon application therefor; the act of Congress, above referred to, allowing them to be sent through the mails free of charge. It is hoped that the dissemination of practical results, reached through careful experiments, may do much to diversify our agriculture and improve its practical operations. The appropriation made by the General Government must be used almost exclusively in carrying on the operations of the station; whatever may be needed in the way of buildings and equipment must be furnished by the State.

The provisions made by our own laws for preventing the spread of pleuro-pneumonia, have been carefully carried out with gratifying results. It was alleged during the present year that this dreaded contagious disease existed in Philadelphia and its vicinity, and that the United States authorities were anxious to cooperate in preventing its spread and destroying every vestige of it in that neighborhood. Investigations were made under the direction of the State officers, and no occasion for the employment of additional means of prevention seemed to be necessary. The complaints were reiterated, however, and it was claimed that the disease could not be thoroughly stamped out of New York, Baltimore and other quarters, so long as Pennsylvania refused to co-operate in securing thorough quarantine regulations, and a very careful inspection of all the neat cattle within the supposed infected district. The Executive was, therefore, finally induced to yield to those complaints, so far as to proclaim a quarantine within a radius of eight miles from the new City Hall in Philadelphia, An agreement was made with the Un fully appreciated. Might it not be possible, however, to remedy the evil, at least partially, by requiring all plans for all school buildings about to be creeted, to be submitted to the Department of Education for approval before their erection? partment of Education for approval before their erection?

The s-thool directors throughout the Commonwealth are required, once in three years, to attend a convention, held at the county seat of the several counties, for the election of a superintendent. They are also expected to attend the sessions of the annual county institute, at least for one day. Some of the directors do this without much trouble and without any expense; others are compelled to incur both trouble and expense. Would it not be both vise and just to give authority, by provision of law, to school directors to charge their actual necessary expenses in attending these meetings, to their respective constituencies, whom they serve without compensation? An effort is now being made to secure, at the port of Philadelphia, a schoolship, under the provisions of an act of Congress, upon which boys can be trained in the arts and sciences relating to navigation and practical seamanship The Government of the United States, unde The Government of the United States, under the provisions of the law before mentioned, furnishes the ship and the officers to command it and give the necessary instruction, but the officers detailed for this purpose are paid by the Government only what is known as "short pay." The difference between such pay and full, or pay upon the active list, must be made up in some other way. Your attention will doubtless be directed to this subject by the introduction of a bill providing for a mixed commission to manage the ship, and for a moderate appropriation toward the expenses of maintaining it. Inasmuch as the boys from all parts of the Commonwealth will be admitted to the ship, so far as its accommodations will allow, it would seem to be a proper subject of expenditure, and it is cordially commended to your careful consideration if no constitutional difficulty interferes.

The desirability of the founding of mining schools, so-called, has been brought to the attention of the Executive in various ways, with the evident expectation that something can be done by general legislation to aid in their establishment.

The life of the miner is attended with extralishment.

The life of the miner is attended with extra-SORGHUM CULTURE.

periments conducted at rort scott snow that sugar can now be manufactured there from the cane at a profit, without State bounty. The sooner this question is discussed and set-tled for Pennsylvania, the sooner are we likely to meet the wants of our people, and profitably diversify one constitute.

BOAD LAWS DEFECTIVE

It is said that the civilization of a country s marked by its roads. If this be true Pennsylvania cannot claim to have ranked highest

in civilization. It is safe to say that no ex-

penditure of public moneys yields so little in return as the road taxes of Pennsylvania. Our

entire system of road laws-or rather our road laws which lack system-should be thoroughly

pose when temporary roads were to be laid out and cheaply made through unbroken forests and over lands which had but little value. The

time has come when it will be economy, in every

way, to build our roads permanently and sub-

The comfort of our people, economy in the transportation of our products, saving in the wear and tear of vehicles and animals, and the

needless multiplication of highways, all de-

mand that the laws governing the laying out and construction of our roads, should be radi-cally reformed and systematized.

This may be considered a matter of minor importance, and yet it affects every inhabitant of the Commonwealth. We must all use at

some time or other, in some way or other, our

public roads. Their character and condition affect the breeding of our stock, the style of our vehicles, the carrying capacity of the far-mer's wagon, and the speed and enjoyment of

all who travel them for business or pleasure,

either in the carriage, in the saddle, on the bi-

either in the carriage, in the saddle, on the bicycle or on foot.

A thorough system should be devised and
authorized by the Legislature which could be
put into immediate effect by our older communities, and adopted by those which are
newer as their ability and the wants of their

diversify our agriculture.

lishment.

The life of the miner is attended with extraordinary hazards. His work is essential to the full development of the resources of the Commonwagath. It involves, more than in ordinary employments, a practical knowledge of geology, chemistry, physics and kindred sciences, and the science and art of maining engineering. If anything can be done which would bring within the reach of this deserving class an education suited to their needs, without, in so doing, violating the spirit of the Constitution, as to special or class legislation, it would be well to consider the subject, and make such provision as, in your wisdom, may seem meet.

The whole subject of special schools for the training of special classes is one of great delicacy and difficulty, and, in view of the difficulties which beset us in the consideration of the subject, the munificence of one of the citizens of Pennsylvania, in providing an institution, lately founded, for a school of this character, is to be noted with approbation. Isaiah V. Williamson, of the city of Philadelphia, has lately conveyed to a board of trustees property valued at several millions of dollars for the establishment of the "Williamson Free School of Mechanical Trades."

It is difficult to estimate the value, in actual dollars and cents, to the Commonwealth, as well as to the individual education therein, of such a foundation. It points the way for others, and may be the only solution of a problem, the result of which, however desirable, must nevertheless be worked out under and in obedience to the provisions of our Constitution. Sorghum Culture.

Pennsylvania consumes from 250,000.000 to 300,000.000 pounds of sugar annually. At a low estimate the sugar consumed within our borders costs our people \$15,000.000 each year.

Can we raise this costly product, at a profit, within our borders? Recent successful experiments conducted at Fort Scott, in the State of Kansas, would seem to indicate that it can be done by the cultivation and treatment of what is known as the sorghum plant. This is a cereal plant, the seed of which, in its chemical constituents, very closely resembles our Indian corn. After the seed is harr-sted, the cane is treated for sugar and the residuum can be utilized in the manufacture of paper, and is said to make a paper pulp second only to linen rags. Our sister States of Kansas and New Jersey have stimulated the cultivation of sorghum and the extraction of sugar from its cane by offering bounties. It is believed that it would be wise economy on the part of Pennsylvania, either to offer a bounty for the production of sugar at a certain rate per pound, or to provide for experiments to test the practical questions involved in the growipg of the cane on our soil, in our climate, and the manufacture of sugar therefrom.

Our State Board of Agriculture has provided for a day's discussion of this question at its approaching meeting, the present month, in Harrisburg. It is hoped that the subject may be brought more directly and fully to your attention by those who have given careful study to it, and have expended much time in the solution of practical questions connected therewith. It is confidently asserted that the experiments conducted at Fort Scott show that sugar can now be manufactured there from the came at a profit, without State bounty.

SOLDIERS ORPHANS' SCHOOLS. Closely allied to the general subject of eduation, is that of the care and education of the children gathered in our soldiers orphans' As you are doubtless aware, a proviso of the first section of the Act of 2d June, 1887, provided for the expenses of the said schools, enacts

A NAVAL SCHOOL.

"No admission shall be granted to any of the oldiers orphans' schools or homes af er June 1, 1887, and that all schools or homes shall close and all children be discharged from said institutions on June 1, 1890." This proviso does not reflect the views of the Executive. It was not such an item, however, as he is authorized under the Constitution to disapprove, and it was allowed to stand be-cause the disapproval of it necessarily involved the disapproval of the entire bill. In addition to this, the subject was one over which the Legislature had control, and the Executive felt bound by his own rule to give full scope to the enactments of the Legislature made in actake."
In accordance with the authority and request of this resolution, George W. Atherton, LL.D., A. H. Fetterolf, Ph. D., Prof. N. C. Shaeffer, Prof. George J. Luckey and Colonel Theodore W. Bean were averaged to the control of these children in some other way than that pointed out by the law under which ointed to serve upon said | the present schools are organized. The general tener of the Constitution is against appro-priations for this purpose; but there is in the nineteenth section of the third article a special provision, whereby the General Assembly is authorized to make appropriations of money to authorized to make appropriations of money to institutions where the widows of soldiers are supported or assisted, or the orphans of soldiers are maintained and educated.

On the 1st of June, 1890, there will be left under the care of the State, and undergoing education in her soldiers' orphan schools, 1,549 children, whose ages will range at that date from 5 to 15 years. Forty-five of them will be 8 years old and under, and 387 of them 15 years of age.

It is believed that the people of the Commonwealth expect and intend that these children shall be maintained at their expense. How shall this be done, if done at all? It is possible that the very young children may be able to secure homes as allowed under existing laws; the remainder could be cared for in existing schools, the number thereof being diminished year by year until, say in June, 1805, only so many children would remain as could be easily transferred to and cared for in homes which are established and conducted by churches or charitable organizations. This would be a simple and easy mode of disposing of the children al-ready under the care of the Commonwealth.

A DIFFICULT PROBLEM. Demand is made, however, in many quarters for the reopening of the doors of these schools. so that the children of deserving men, who served their country faithfully and have since died, might be admitted to the same privileges which have been enjoyed by those who were left in like condition in former years. It is difficult to see why any distinction should be made among these children. Those who are orphans now, are as needy and as deserving as those who received the benefits of the system ten years or more ago.

The question is by no means free from difficulty, and yet it is one which must be considered by the Legislature, and provided for as in its wisdom may seem meet. If these schools are to be continued, or if the

orphans of our deceased soldiers of the late war are to be provided for in some other way, it would seem well that their care an custody should be transferred from the Department of Public Instruction (already overburdened with its own legitimate work) to a separate depart-ment, as originally intended. We have now a Superintendent of Soldiers' Orphans who is the same as the Superintendent of Public In-struction, a male inspector and female inspector, with a certain amount of clerical force belonging to the department.

It is believed that a Superintendent, with the present clerical force, could much more satisfactorily and more economically administer the affairs of these schools, than is done at present and is to these schools, than is done at present under the divided responsibility which the diversified management entails. It is fair to say that this conclusion is shared by the present Superintendent of Soldiers Orphans' Schools, and, also, by the male inspector. Would it be possible to care for the children remaining in the schools on the 1st of June, 1890, between the ages of 8 and 15 years, in, or in connection with, our State normal schools? Benefit would undoubtedly accrue to some of Henefit would undoubtedly accrue to some of the normal schools by thus furnishing them pupils for their model schools. Some may, perhaps, have accommodations which could be utilized for this purpose. Some have ex-pressed a willingness to co-operate in endeavor-ing to provide for the care and education of the children. The subject is not free from difficulty and is morely suggested to year condifficulty, and is merely suggested to your con-sideration as a possible way out of the com-plications which surround us. This whole sub-

ect is commended to your careful consideration and discreet decision. It is, perhaps, proper to say that most of the schools have been visited by the Executive in person, and all have been carefully and thoroughly inspected by the present inspectors. The schools have maintained a good standing throughout the two years last past, for efficiency and general good management. Few com-plaints have been made, and such as have been received always investigated, and the abuses, if any were found to exist, remedied at once. AGRICULTURAL INTERESTS.

The State Board of Agriculture has done efficient work in various directions and none better, perhaps, than what has been carried on

newer as their ability and the wants of their people might require.

Demand is also made, officially, by the Association of Poor Directors of the State, and, privately, by many localities and individuals, for a revision of our poor laws. We have no general system for the care of and provision for our poor. The laws upon this subject should, also, be thoroughly revised and codified.

The same may be said regarding our fence laws. Special acts are in force in many parts of the Commonwealth, being confined, in some cases, to townships. There should be some general system governing this subject which general system governing this subject which would be applicable to the entire Common-wealth. Unfortunately, what is known as the local option system cannot be carried into effect because of the constitutional difficulties which attend it. It may be possible, however, to obviate this difficulty by dividing our lands into two classes, so that in the cleared and thickly-populated districts, the burdens of maintaining fences might be removed from agriculture, and in those that are more sparsely populated and wooded, free range for cattle might be maintained.

A reduction in, or the entire abolition of, the cost of fencing, has been heretofore regarded as the great desideratum in the repeal of our fence laws. A new element, entirely, enters into the subject when we come to regard it from the standpoint of the preservation of the forests of the Commonwealth. Much of our young timber is wantonly destroyed in providing local option system cannot be carried into timber is wantonly destroyed in providing cheap fencing for cheap lands. This is a subject which will also demand your wise and considerate attention. Would it not, perhaps, meet the requirements of the case, if a commission were authorized to consider the whole range of subjects involved in our road, poor and fence laws, with the view of having them carefully studied, thoroughly systematized and codified, in accordance with the requirements codified, in accordance with the requirements of our present advanced civilization? A commission of gentlemen familiar with these subjects, and thoroughly competent to deal with them, could undoubtedly be secured, who would serve the Commonwealth without pay. and would give the benefit of their knowledge and experience, upon the mere payment of the

ance. The productiveness of our soil as affected by the rainfall, the health of the community, safety from disastrous floods now almost annually occurring, the future wood supply of the country, and the esthetic considera-

expenses attending the duties of their appointment. If, however, you are prepared to finally pass upon these subjects at your present sesion, the better will it be for all the interests In accordance with the concurrent resolution

consider the subject of forestry in Pennsylva-nia, and report the result of their labors, by bill prisoners are to be reformed and returned to or otherwise, to the next regular session of the society better than when their imprisonment Legislature." This commission, consisting of commenced, they must be furnished with some Hon. Washington Townsend, Prof. William A. employment. This is as important from the Buckhout, Colonel George B. Weistling, Rev. Samuel F. Colt, D. D., and Mr. George O. own maintenance while in prison. It may be

Praetorius, have given earnest, zealous and faithful attention to the duties of their ap-pointment. They served, under the provisions of the resolution, without compensation. They have rendered valuable service to the Common-wealth, and the result of their labors is herewith transmitted to you. The practical suggestions contained in their report are of value, and the legislation proposed by them should receive your considerate attention. The subject of forestry is one of vital impormade. The institution is economically managed and its interests carefully guarded. The management is to be commended in that it returned to the State Treasury, out of the appropriation of \$2,500 for covering the walls surpropriation of \$2,500 for covering the walls surpropriation of \$2,500 for covering the walls surpropriation of the act of the 2d of June,1887, the sum of \$1,201.

The House of Refuge in Philadelphia is about to make a new and important departure. Through the liberality of two of our citizens large funds have been placed at their disposal for the purchase of a farm and the erection of new buildings. These donations, in connection with the value of their present property, which they will be able to sell after the new institution is completed, will go far toward providing accommodation for an increased number of misguided youth and boys who need the restraints and training of that worthy institution. It is probable that application will be made to you for assistance in carrying out the plans of the managers. If so, the institution and its present plans are commended to your favorable consideration, in case the finances of the Commonwealth will warrant you in making appropriations for the purpose.

The reform school at Morganza is successfully doing its work. It is believed, by its managers and friends, that a separate general gathering room for the gris should be provided. In which they could receive instructive practical talks, in matters relating to their sex, from instructors and others. A moderate appropriation for this purpose is recommended.

All other penal and reformatory institutions have been visited by the Executive, and an effort made to be kept fully informed of their condition and wants, as well as of he efficiency of their management.

It is hoped that with the completion of the Huntingdon Reformatory, its opening for the reception of immates, and the completed buildings of the Western Penitentlary, we will have abundant provision for the care and custody of our criminal classes for

sist. What encouragement, under our present system, is there when, after the family have striven together to secure a home of their own, the improvidence or thriftlessness of the head of the family may lead to its loss?

Without in anyway interfering with our present exemption law, would it not be a great encouragement and help to many of our ordinary wage-earners and their families, if a real homestead exemption law were enacted, which would exempt from levy and sale, the actual homestead occupied by the family—say, to the value of \$600? This would make the property exempt by law less than \$1,000, which is the amount exempted in many of our States. The passage of such a law is cordially commended to your serious consideration, with a clause forbidding a waiver of the benefits of the law, under any circumstances, by the head of a family. A good home is not an ideal thing. It can be had by every family of ordinary health, exercising ordinary prudence and economy, if encouragement is afforded to its members to work together for the accompishment of such an object. An exemption law, such as is proposed, and the practical operations of our present building association laws, will, it is believed, afford both the opportunity and the encouragement required.

MINING LAWS—COMMERCE. MINING LAWS-COMMERCE. Practical suggestions, relating to the amend

ment of our present mining laws, will be laid before you by those specially interested in the subject, in the shape of amendments to, or a revision of, the present laws.

As hereinbefore intimated, the men who are As hereinbefore intimated, the men who are spending their lives, in large part, under ground, developing our mineral resources, and incurring unusual dangers' thereby, should be protected to the fullest extent by w.se and wholesome provisions relating to the care and inspection of our mines. Our mine inspections are men of practical intelligence, and are believed to be wholly devoted to the discharge of the duties devolving upon them. Their recommendations are entitled to careful consideration, and, in so far as they relate to practical methods for increased efficiency in the inspection of our mines, and the preservation of the lives, health and safety of our miners, are cordially commended to you for your judicious action. Their reports are not ready for submission, but will doubtless be laid before you during your present session.

How shall we secure the shipment of the products of our own mines, mills and manufactories, from our own port to other ports along the coast of our own country and of other countries who are our neighbors, and whose trade naturally belongs to us? How shall we encourage investments in steamship lines, which shall extend and develop trade with the neighboring Americas, carrying our products to them and bringing theirs to us in return, without sending them in foreign bottoms, through foreign ports, to be paid for inforeign bankers? Whatever tends to this end helps to remove a stigma which rests upon our country, provides employment for many of our people, stimulates ship spending their lives, in large part, under

ever tends to this end helps to remove a stigma which rests upon our country, provides employment for many of our people, stimulates ship building on the shores of the Delaware, employs capital, not only in the car ying trade, but in mercantile pursuits, and aids in building up our great seaport for the benefit of all.

We are naturally prone to look to the General Government for assistance in this direction, and, in the expection that it will be rendered sometime, sit down and wait. It is believed that something can be done now in this direct. that something can be done now in this direc-

The first requisite of a foreign and coast-wise commerce is a harbor. Philadelphia must have her harbor greatly improved and enlarged if she is to command the commerce which is rightfully and naturally hers. The channel must be widened, deepened and extended. In order to do this, formidable obstructions which lie in the path of progress, must be removed Smith's and Windmill islands, which constitute a formidable obstacle to navigation and lie directly in the harbor, must be purchased from their owners and entirely removed, and some 140 acres of Petty's island cut away. It is pro-posed to give to the harbor of Philadelphia a channel from the upper part of the city to Delaware bay, 600 feet wide and 26 feet deep at mean low water. The entire cost of this work, when completed, will exceed \$6,000,000.

erecting the buildings of the said reformatory, that the grounds very fitted and the buildings made ready for furniture and industrial equipment, they were, on the 15th day of May, 1888, formally delivered to the Executive, who, in turn, transferred them to the care and custody of five managers, provision for whose appointment was made in the act referred to. The managers appointed for the government and control of the said reformatory are Hon. H. G. Fisher, Colonel W. W. Jennings, Hon. Samuel McCamant, Hon. Alexander Port and Henry B. Tyler, Esq. They immediately assumed the discharge of the duties imposed upon them by the said act; have furnished the buildings in part selected a superintendent and provided part, selected a superintendent, and provided in a general way for the reception of inmates. inmates, they have been unable as yet to cer-tify their readiness to receive them. In order to put the institution into practical operation at once, it is recommended that the managers be authorized, by a concurrent resolution of the Legislature, to use funds appropriated for furniture and other purposes, now in the treasury, for maintenance, until an ap-priation for the latter purpose can be regularly secured. If this were done the Governor would be able to make proclamation, as required by the eighteenth section of the act aforemen tioned, and the courts of the Commonwealth exercising criminal jurisdiction, could, thereupon, sentence those who are, under the law, entitled to admission therein, to the said reformatory. This is important, not only because it is desirable to send all new cases, entitled to the benefit of the act referred to, immediately

In accordance with the concurrent resolution of the Legislature, approved the 28th day of pletion. In its construction and management April, 1887, a commission of five persons was this institution compares favorably with any of appointed by the Governor "to examine and its class elsewhere. Difficulty has been experi-